

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. The presently pending claims are claims 1-17. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended.

In the Office Action of December 3, 2001, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because the reference character "82" has been used to designate both finger guide and carriage in FIG. 5. In response, the Applicant has amended the drawing to reference the finger guide and reference number "80." Additionally, the specification has been amended to reference the finger guide as reference number "80." The Examiner also objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner stated that every feature of the invention specified in the claims must be shown. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the means for independently adjusting a position of both grinding wheels must be shown. In response, the Applicant has amended FIG. 4 to illustrate the movement of the grinding wheels in three axes.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner stated that in claims 1 and 14, it has been held that the functional "whereby" statement does not define any structure and accordingly cannot serve to distinguish. In response, the Applicant has amended claims 1 and 16, removing the use of the word "whereby." Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1-16 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,905,159 to Stanaback (Stanaback) in view of German Patent Number DE 002629130 A1 (Junker) and U.S. Patent No. 5,381,630 to Kinner (Kinner). The Examiner stated that Stanaback discloses all the elements of the claimed invention with the exception of a second grinding wheel for grinding a secondary clearance of the end mill; means for rotating the secondary grinding wheel; means for independently adjusting a position of the grinding wheel, wherein both the grinding wheels simultaneously grind the cutting surfaces of the end mill; and motors and belt assemblies

attached to the motor for rotationally driving both the grinding wheels. In addition, the Examiner stated that Junker discloses a pair of grinding wheels that simultaneously grind the cutting surfaces of an end mill. Also, the Examiner stated that Kinner discloses a pair of grinding wheels for grinding a workpiece and means for rotating both the grinding wheels. Furthermore, the Examiner stated that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the apparatus of Stanaback with motors and belt assemblies attached to the motor for rotationally driving both the grinding wheels, since it has been held that omission of an element and its function in a combination where the remaining elements perform the same functions as before involves only routine skill in the art.

In response, the Applicant respectfully disagrees. Junker discloses two grinding wheels for grinding the flutes within an end mill. The two grinding wheels perform the exact same function on the end mill, namely grinding the flutes. Specifically, Junker merely grinds the gullet of the end mill using two grinding wheels in mirror image. On the other hand, the Applicant's invention includes two grinding wheels which *independently* perform *two* separate functions, grinding the primary and secondary clearances of the end mill. Junker discloses grinding the gullet of the end mill, not the primary and secondary clearances. Additionally, Kinner discloses two grinding wheels which grind brake disks. The two grinding wheels disclosed in Kinner do not perform separate independent operations, but rather perform mirror image grinding operations on the brake disk. The combination of Junker, Stanaback and Kinner would not perform the same functions of the Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1-12 and 14-17 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stanaback in view of Junker and Kinner and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,606,813 to Schultz (Schultz). The Examiner stated that Stanaback fails to disclose a pair of grinding wheels that rotates in an opposite direction. Additionally, the Examiner stated that Schultz discloses a pair of grinding wheels that rotate in opposite directions. The Examiner also stated that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the apparatus

of Stanaback with a pair of grinding wheels that rotate in an opposite direction in view of Schultz as to prevent binding of the workpiece being sharpened.

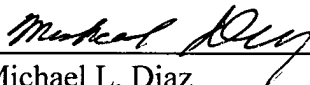
In response, the Applicant respectfully disagrees. As discussed above, Stanaback, Junker and Kinner do not disclose utilizing two grinding wheels to perform two separate, independent functions. Additionally, Schultz also merely performs the same mirror operation with the second grinding wheel. The combination of Stanaback, Junker, Kinner, and Schultz cannot perform the two separate independent operations, namely grinding primary and secondary clearances. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1-17.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dated: 4-03-02

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